

I recommend that the FCC refuse or require significant amendments to this BellSouth petition. In effect, it asks the FCC to stop regulating broadband ISP service. Although this particular action would not effect me immediately, its principle and example lead me to believe that I would eventually be effected. This expectation is supported by the copy-cat petitions by Verizon and Qwest.

Even with nominal competition from cable, my regional phone company is currently offering a relatively ineffective ISP package for home businesses like mine. The local ISP that I use for DSL broadband offers far better support and features for small businesses.

The cost to me for DSL itself is the same whether it is through the phone company or my ISP. This DSL charge may not be fair to the phone company, although this cab trued of any tariff constraints imposed on regulated monopolies. On the other hand, the phone company fought vigorously to protect its land line monopoly so it has little basis on which to argue that it should not be regulated at all; it can always argue that it should be regulated fairly. Unless an area has many (probably more than four) distinct competitive options for providing ISP service on DSL and/or cable, I would not support the deregulation of DSL or cable internet providers.